

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 8 and 22 have been amended. Claims 11-21 have previously been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 22-32 are now presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection*Kerr in view of Molitor*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8-9, 22-24, 26, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kerr U.S. Patent No. 6,243,667. ("Kerr") in view of Molitor, U.S. Patent No. 6,661,799 ("Molitor").

The Examiner's response to arguments suggests that Claim 1 does not functionally relate to "having access to the same unified cache" because the cache is not being accessed. Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that the second application accesses the unified cache. This is not believed to add any new matter because the claim prior to amendment recited that some application would attempt to access the unified cache. The claim failed to state which one, but it could have been the second application.

The Examiner further states that for this rejection, Kerr tags a packet with a cache lookup key. The teachings of Molitor suggest that Kerr be modified to allow users to share data packets via the applications to perform the services required. The Examiner appears to have cited Molitor at 5:52-55, 7:12-26, 8:4-22, 5:41-45, and 4:54-57 in support of this suggestion. However, Applicants are unable to find any suggestion of a packet being passed from one application to another and then the second application using the flow key or the hash table key. It appears to always be the same routing function 140.

Accordingly, Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable. The other claims are believed to be allowable on the same or similar grounds, *inter alia*.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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